


*The* **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*  
**Hearthstone**



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- No You Have to Work on Sunday—*Carl H. Brown*
- Her Bargain with God—*Mark Wilcox*

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# The Magazine for the Christian Home Hearthstone

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### Be a Little Bit Selfish

Maybe this title slapped you in the face like a wet rag. You maybe even think that a religious magazine has no business admonishing people to indulge in such an undesirable practice.

But is being selfish *always* undesirable? Let us think of some of the things that would happen if you were one hundred per cent unselfish: (1) A salesman could sell you anything. You would buy his products whether you needed them or not, because you would feel obligated somehow, or perhaps sorry for him. (2) People would use you as a doormat: "Mary won't care if I wear her new dress tonight." Or "My father always gives me money when I ask for it." Or "If I don't get my ironing done, Mother will finish it for me." I have a very good friend who bought a dress that she didn't like because she wanted to please someone else. (3) A person who is completely unselfish runs the risk of becoming a Caspar Milquetoast. "Whatever you want to do is all right with me," these people say with lukewarm enthusiasm.

Unselfishness is a very commendable virtue; but occasionally you should have your wishes fulfilled, too.

**What's Here?** Our cover picture shows deer and buffalo grazing in a forest preserve near St. Louis, Mo.

People in many trades and professions are compelled to work on Sunday. An excellent article, "So You Have to Work on Sunday," by Carl Brown, gives helpful advice to these individuals, including numerous examples of people who have remedied the problem.

"I don't understand why Johnny (or Janie) likes to do that," is a familiar wail of mothers of young children. A not-so-often discussed dilemma, however, is the reverse situation. "Do Your Children Understand You?" by Ruth Clow, should make many mothers sit up and take notice.

If you plan to throw a St. Patrick's day party for your friends, Loie Brandom's suggestions in "A Pat and Biddy Party" might prove helpful.

**What's Coming?** "Understanding Our Teen-agers"; "Teaching Our Children to Pray"; "Even a Child Needs God."

Till next month,

S. W.



# Family Life Around the World



## ● Mixed Marriages in Germany

Fulda, Germany—One out of every four German Roman Catholics makes a mixed marriage, Joseph Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, disclosed here. In his annual report to the Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops in Germany, the cardinal said that half the Catholics who contract marriages with non-Catholics leave the church.

It was the first time in the nearly 100-year history of the Conference that the chairman's annual report was made public.

## ● Italian Young People Rebel

Milan, Italy—Italian youth are in revolt against both their parents and the church, according to a survey of 6,000 of them made by the Women's Movement of Christian Democracy. Many of them described their family homes as "an intolerable prison" and wanted to marry mainly to escape from their prison and "to break the monotony of daily life." In such matters as the moral character of recreation and entertainment, the inquiry concludes that the views of the church are almost completely disregarded.

## ● Irish Population Falling

Dublin—Eire is one of the few countries in the world where the population is decreasing. In addition to a low birth rate, delayed marriage, and a high percentage of celibacy, it is also losing steadily by emigration, largely to England.

## ● Supermarkets and Family Life

Paris—Supermarkets, which are spreading rapidly in the cities of France, are playing an important part in child life. Hitherto, the child has gone with his parents to buy in one of the tiny shops which are so familiar to every tourist. These are specialized, carry a very small variety of articles, and are under

the close surveillance of the proprietor. Wandering children are not welcome. The supermarket, on the contrary, is wide open, with no one to pay attention to visitors; and children are forming the habit of spending much spare time there, satisfying their needs for light, color, and music, and stimulating their fantasy, as well as increasing their education by the immense stock, spread out for them to examine. Such markets are thought to provide an important education in economics; but they also promote juvenile delinquency (e.g., truancy, shoplifting). In short, the supermarket is modifying contemporary family life significantly.

## ● Japan Birth Rate Declining

Tokyo—A growing population within a very limited land area has always presented Japan with a difficult problem—feeding and caring adequately for her teeming millions. It has recently been revealed, however, that her birth rate has been decreasing markedly. Immediately after World War II the rate was 32 per 1000. According to a recent estimate it is now 20 per 1000.

This decrease has been attributed to two factors, a campaign for family limitation and the spread of the practice of abortion.

## ● Russian Youth Turn to Church

Moscow—A Moscow radio broadcast complained that a lack of cultural opportunities in the Soviet Union is causing young people to "turn to the church for consolation." It said that those who were not turning to religion are being lured to drink or crime.

The broadcast quoted an article in *Pravda*, official communist newspaper, which blamed Komsomol, the youth Communist organization, and other groups for the situation. "The influence of churchmen is becoming increasingly strong" because of failure to provide youth with cultural outlets.





# So You Have to Work on SUNDAY

by Carl R. Brown

You have to work on Sunday. You are of that great and growing class cut off from attending worship on the Lord's Day. Perhaps you take it in stride without complaint. Or you are a bit envious of those who proudly go with their families to church. Maybe you feel sorry for yourself.

Some people work on Sunday out of choice. Some work against their will, out of dire necessity. Some work because their work is vital to health and safety, and out of dedication to a worthy task. Whatever the situation, the conscientious Christian faces the dilemma of being a good churchman, as well as a faithful workman.

What counsel and help can be offered to one in this Sunday job quandary? Volumes have been written on other problems, but on this the cupboards seem bare. Perhaps you who have to work on Sunday have not let your needs be known. Then, too, the rest of us have complacently ignored what has not plagued us.

I went on a quest to find some answers. I took on the form of a roving question mark propounding, "So you have to work on Sunday. What do you do about it?" To laymen and clergy, collectively and individually, I directed this question. The answers are far from conclusive. Some are upsetting. All are interesting and, I believe, helpful.

One of the first groups that I assailed, mostly ministers, had little to suggest, until one pastor spoke up. "I think our church has the answer," he said. Delighted to get the solution so quickly, I asked, "What is it?" He replied, "The answer is in our Sunday evening service. Those who cannot come for morning worship can come in the evening."

Many of our churches, however, do not have evening worship, though some are now experimenting with different forms of evening service to meet a critical need. So I continued my quest.

Several persons insisted that my question precipi-

tated a far greater question: "What is the church doing to stem the tide of 'business as usual' on the Lord's Day?" All over our country retail stores, traditionally closed on Sunday, are now open on a seven-day basis. In some cities the council of churches has wielded sufficient influence to get these to close. In one city, however, the stores reopened soon after the organized effort had abated. Effective legislation seems impossible. Those owners and employees committed to a closed Sunday policy are placed at a tremendous disadvantage. Yet does the church dare tell these companies that it is un-Christian unless it also throws its weight of influence against the practice of their competitors?

I gained much encouragement from the group that we may call "conscientious objectors." Their number may be few, but their influence is mighty.

X. Y. Z. is a middle-aged machinist. He took a job which he needed badly and was greatly pleased with it. Soon, however, he learned that he was expected to work every Sunday. To this his spirit rebelled. He had long been a faithful church attendant and participant. He kept his counsel, nevertheless, and began a study of his job and the shop practices. Before long he went to his employer and laid the case before him. First he told of his deep concern in not being able to attend church regularly. Next he showed the boss how the work schedule could be rearranged. The men could come earlier, take off for church service, and return, if necessary, to finish up. The employer, a Catholic, was sympathetic and understanding. He had not realized the position of this workman and others like him. Soon the new plan was put into effect, thanks to the devotion and courage of a Christian layman.

S. T. U. is a custodian of a post office. His employment covers certain duties on Sunday; but, he, too, worked out a plan providing hours off during the Sunday worship. This he submitted to his superior,



**This is a problem that is affecting more and more people all the time, because of increasing demands in the business world. We hope that this article will be helpful to such people.**

who happened to be an elder in his church. Now employer and employee may often be seen sitting together in morning worship, after which S. T. U. returns to his work.

G. N. P. is a dairyman owning his own plant. Before him his father owned and operated this business. The dairy equipment must be on a seven-day-a-week schedule. So the father worked on Sunday so that his son might attend church. Now the son, though he is a devout churchman himself, says to his help, "All of you who will take your families and attend Sunday worship are excused from work on the Lord's Day." They all go to church, and he stays on the job for them as his father did for him.

One field where this battle of working on Sunday is being waged is in the service station and auto repair shop. In America this line is as important and vital today as the apothecary used to be.

V. U. W. is a small independent operator. His service station is adjacent to his home at the intersection of two thoroughfares. Sunday to him is sacred, and at least during the morning hours his service station carries a large sign "Closed," while he and his family attend church. He figures that whatever he loses at the pump he more than makes up in his pew.

W. C. is a young service station operator in a metropolitan area. Sunday is a busy day when many come for supplies and repairs; but W. C. felt a

growing need to be with his family as they attended church. With his associates he worked out this policy: (1) No general repairs to be scheduled for Sunday; only emergencies and gasoline service, and (2) the men were to take turns on the job. Now W. C. and his associates are in church two out of three Sundays. He expects to step this up to three out of four.

Most people, we understand, who have to work on Sunday have a changing schedule, either with different shifts or off-days, permitting them to attend church periodically. Here the habit of attendance is broken. It is more of an effort. These persons lose contact and the sense of belonging. Yet many of these do come whenever they can and are even more appreciative than those who take it all for granted.

A. F. works in an airport control tower. His position is vital to the safety of a multitude of air passengers daily, and Sunday is no exception. His off-days are rotated, however, and every third Sunday he is free. When not on the job at the airport, he is on the job at his church. One significant remark made by his pastor was this: "He does not use his employment as an alibi or excuse."

C. F. D. is a hotel clerk. He tries faithfully to arrange his off-Sundays when he is scheduled to perform as deacon during communion. He seldom fails his assignment.

Those who find it impossible to attend Sunday church services can nevertheless take part in church activities during the week—attending board meetings, sponsoring a scout troop, helping at church dinners, and many others.

*ENS Photo*





R. S. T. is a printer for a large metropolitan newspaper. The early morning edition keeps him well into the new day. Sometimes he gets home for a few hours of sleep before church begins. Other times he comes straight from his job, tired, somewhat bedraggled, but glad to be there for part of the service occasionally.

Mrs. W. works in the diet kitchen of a city hospital. She usually has one Sunday off each month, however, and she faithfully attends church then. Nor does she backslide in her financial obligation to her church. She gives regularly.

Shirley M., a nurse, looks forward to singing in the church choir when she has a Sunday off. She is a young Christian woman, who has always taken an active part in church affairs.

Nevertheless, there always is that great host of lay folks whose jobs keep them away from church on Sunday. They have no choice. There is for them no rotation. The reaction to this dilemma on the part of Christian men and women is varied and interesting.

R. J. K. was for many years a regular church attendant, board member, and supporter. Then he changed jobs and started working on Sundays. Soon he lost interest. Like the branch severed from the vine, his Christian zeal withered. He ceased coming to board meetings. He lapsed his pledge. Worst of all, his family used him as a convenient excuse for staying away. Now he is out of the church, and apparently the church is out of his home.

But the case of W. E. G. is different. For 33 years he has been a helper in a large bakery, member of the crew that works on Sunday. He is keenly disappointed, but not bitter, that work keeps him from

Sunday worship. He accepted appointment on the official board, and attends the monthly meetings. For his two weeks' vacation he putters around his home on weekdays and goes to church on Sunday. A trip to the mountains or seashore would not give him the thrill that he receives from serving communion on those two Sundays of vacation. He has raised a family of five, and his great joy is that wife and children have all attended church regularly.

P. D. is on the editorial staff of a morning metropolitan paper. He cannot get to the church service, but he is home for a late Sunday dinner. His wife and three youngsters go to church school and church. Now they have set up this project. After dinner they engage in family worship, and the children brief their father on their morning lessons and the sermon. Not only is this rewarding for the youngsters, but Dad insists that he gets more out of it than do many of those who heard it from the minister himself. Absence from Sunday services, of course, need not forestall other contacts with the church—weekday meetings, visitations, stewardship, and worship in the home and elsewhere.

So you, my Christian friends, have to work on Sunday. Let us try together to keep Sunday labor to a minimum by disciplining our buying habits and by our witness in civic affairs. The use of the Lord's Day for rest and spiritual recreation is a precious heritage to be preserved at all costs. Next, will you conscientiously use your ingenuity to include church attendance whenever at all possible? Where this is not possible, remember that there are many other facets of your spiritual life that may serve you adequately. When a man loses his sight, he quickens his other senses to compensate for this loss.

## *Mountains*



We look afar at mountain peaks  
Against the sky in silent might;  
While some are low with shoulders round,  
The others reach to dizzy height.

Just like these mountains are the peaks  
We meet in life, from time to time.  
Some hills are low, of no import,  
While some are high and hard to climb.

And there are valleys, dark and deep,  
Where we must go before we climb.  
We may be sad on downward roads,  
But going up, the view's sublime.

—Ellen Earnhardt Morrison





"Sorry, Brad. It'll have to be Glee Club or football," declared Mr. Kolnic kindly. "Now, if you had been here before those two new students came in, then I'd have been able to place you in the morning class."

# FAMILY - TOGETHER

by Polly Focht

Brad Golson jerked back his hand, letting the spoon in the dish of grapefruit segments drop with a clatter. The action and noise brought instant silence about the family breakfast table.

"But, Dad," protested the high school senior, "I've just gotta get to school early this morning to sign up for Glee Club. I'm lucky even to be asked to join, especially since school started three weeks ago." A frown wrinkled Brad's forehead, and irritation sharpened his voice. Here in this great flour milling center he had been included in a crowd of youth at both church and school—cosmopolitan groups they were. So different

from their former home, where he attended a segregated school for Negroes.

"I'm rejoicing that you've been invited, son," answered Wesley Golson, his kindly dark eyes smiling sympathetically. "But the family must be fed spiritual food first. We must be fortified against sudden temptation or resentments. You see, we're a—"

"Christian family. Yeh, I know," interrupted Brad, bored and a little defiant. "Well, let's get on with it. I'm losing time."

"Well!" breathed Nancy, Brad's 13-year-old sister, with exaggerated shock. "Did I ever!"

"Brad didn't mean nothin',"

begged Bobby, the six-year-old.

"That's right, Half Pint," Brad admitted with a grin, giving the close-cropped head of his little brother a Dutch rub.

"Now if you can all clear your minds, I'll read a verse from Romans and one from the Psalms," said Mr. Golson calmly. He began reading.

"'But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.' 'Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.'"

Brad heard little of the reading or his father's prayer. He was aware that his father, as always,





**When the choir sang, Brad forgot his anger in spite of himself. How he'd love to sing in that choir! But he'd have no chance there.**

prayed for each member of the family, but this morning he could think of nothing else but getting to school and signing up for Glee Club.

As he left the table, his mother said, "Brad, are you sure you've had enough to eat this morning? One glass of milk isn't usually enough for you."

"I've had more than enough," challenged Brad meaningfully.

"Brad," quietly continued his mother, "after this when you have to be at school extra early, let us know, and the family will all get up earlier to accommodate you."

Without answering Brad lunged through the door and in great strides walked the long hall, letting the front door of the apartment house close with a bang. Easily, he broke into a run that covered the eight blocks to school in record time.

Mr. Kolnic, the registrar, was at his desk. Brad moved quickly to the counter, saying, "I've come to sign up for Glee Club, Mr. Kolnic."

"Fine, Brad," answered the registrar, coming to the counter with Brad's record sheet. "They can use you in that tenor section, but you'll have to work with the 2:45 class. I've just signed up two new members for the morning section, which fills that hour."

"Oh, but Mr. Kolnic I can't that hour. That's when I have to practice football this semester," protested Brad.

"Sorry, Brad. It'll have to be Glee Club or football," declared Mr. Kolnic kindly. "Now, if you had been here before those two new students came in, then I'd have been able to place you in the morning class."

Brad turned away, disappointed and resentful. If Dad hadn't insisted upon the family's having Bible reading and prayers to-

gether—! He couldn't give up football even if he was only a substitute. He understood that. He was playing his first year in this school. The other guys had been playing here three years. Anyway, he wanted to sing in the school chorus, and they wanted him.

When Jim Harkness chided him at lunch time for not getting to school early enough to register ahead of the two new kids, Brad didn't explain why he had gotten there too late. Yeh! Guess he should have gotten up earlier.

It was nearly six o'clock when he got home after football practice that evening, but his dad was late, too. "A union meeting was called, and your father as secretary was obliged to be there," explained his mother briefly as she moved quickly about the living room, stepping carefully to avoid Bobby's toys.

"I got there too late this morning to get into the morning class for Glee Club," grumbled Brad. "Two new kids signed up for that class just ahead of me. Looks like I could have been excused from family worship, this once."

"It wasn't an emergency, son," Audrey Golson answered quietly, pushing back the black hair threaded through with lines of white. "A little thought on your part, and the family would gladly have co-operated."

Brad turned away from his mother's penetrating look. School-teacher eyes, he called them.

"I'd rather Brad played football anyway," comforted Bobby, looking up from his trucks and farmyard on the floor.

"You're all right, Half Pint," declared Brad as he left the kitchen. "I'm glad there's one who'll stick up for me."

Not until the next Sunday morning after church school did the subject of family come up

again. "The gang has invited me to sit with them for morning worship," Brad explained to the family in the foyer. "It's all right if I do sit with them, isn't it, Dad?"

"You're with them during the church school hour and in the evening for Youth Fellowship. Now, the family worships together," his father answered quietly. With a nod of his head toward friendly acquaintances, Wesley Golson led his family to their accustomed place in the sanctuary, allowing no further comment.

Brad's anger rolled and boiled. Sure, he felt sorry for himself. Why shouldn't he! His father couldn't or wouldn't understand. Brad had been accepted into a group of young people both at church and school. His race had made no difference. He was one of the crowd. Yet stubbornly, his father had insisted that race had nothing to do with being a Christian family—either.

When the choir sang, Brad forgot his anger in spite of himself. The director was an outstanding musician in the city. How he'd love to sing in that choir! But he'd have no chance there. It was an all-white choir. The music eased his ruffled ego, and he listened to the preached word.

The following Friday the gang at school was having lunch at the Knotty Pine, when Charlie Soong slipped onto the bench beside Brad, speaking only for him to hear. "Brad, I see you sitting with your family at church every Sunday morning. My folks are Buddhists. I'd like to bring my little sister Nanette to church. Our parents have no objections to our going, but I'd like to be a family. Would your folks mind if we sat with their family?"

"I'm sure they'd be glad to have you both, Charlie," Brad an-





THIS  
IS THE WAY  
WE DID IT

# Moving Hospitality

by Evelyn Witter

swered amicably.

So it was that Charlie and Nanette Soong became a part of the Golson family at Sunday morning worship. Brad thought about Charlie's request. Being family seemed really important to the Chinese fellow. Course, he loved his family, too! Maybe he hadn't been too co-operative with them!

On the first Sunday of November, as the family were leaving the sanctuary, an usher handed Brad a sealed envelope. He slipped it into his pocket, wondering bewilderingly what it could be. While driving to take Charlie and Nanette to their home, Brad took the envelope from his pocket and opened it.

"I saw you get that," piped Bobby, squirming about in the front seat. "Read it, Brad."

"Just a minute," mumbled Brad, amazement sounding from his voice as he read the lines quickly. "I can't believe it. Listen, folks. I'm invited to sing in the church choir and participate in their spring concert tour. Me!"

"Well!" cried Nancy with delight.

"That's wonderful, son," his mother spoke with enthusiasm.

"Fine," agreed Charlie, giving Brad a friendly slap on the back. "Isn't it wonderful to have such an understanding family to back you?"

"I don't like it," protested Bobby. "I can't sit with Brad in church then."

"If the Lord has opened a special service for Brad, the family rejoices," Wesley Golson declared. "As Charlie said, all of your family will be backing you, including Charlie and Nanette. You see, we're a—"

"Christian family," chorused the group, as the car came to a stop before the Soong home.

Remember when you first moved into your present home? Were you at a loss, wondering about who your neighbors were and what the complete facilities of the community were? Did you feel strangely alone in your new surroundings where everyone seemed comfortably acquainted and informed but you?

A very good friend of mine, who recently sold her home, remembered the plight that she was in when she bought the house. It had taken her months to become acquainted with the people on her street. It had taken her a long time, too, to find out what advantages were at her disposal in this part of town. She thought that she could spare the newcomers whom she had just sold to, a lot of the "hard to get my bearings" dilemma if she would act as an ambassador of goodwill before moving day.

So she invited her successors to her home for dinner one night. It turned out to be a potluck for all the neighbors. She called it her "Before Moving" party.

Everyone enjoyed the party, especially the newcomers. They were told all the important things that they most wanted to know.

The neighbors told about the shopping district, the P-TA, the scout troupes and their leaders, the mid-morning "over the coffee cups" get-togethers, the community-owned lawn mower, the newsboy's habits, available baby sitters, and other details of neighborhood living that might have taken them months to learn about. There was plenty of banter about personal likes and dislikes, occupations and hobbies which helped the new buyers know these people. They were glad to tell about themselves, too. By the end of the evening there were no strangers in the house that was soon to change owners.

"Just think," Mrs. Newcomer sighed happily. "I haven't even begun to pack yet, and I know my neighbors and my neighborhood already! Isn't that simply wonderful? I know I'm going to love to live here!"

"I think everyone who sells his home should have a 'Before Moving' party in advance of turning over the keys," someone said.

There were "Ayes" all around.



# Young People Are LAZY

by Helen A. Archibald

Every day one encounters young people whose apathy and seeming abandonment of all ambition are clearly evident. One sees a teen-ager, draped all over a chair watching TV, call to a little sister and ask her to change the channel when he wants another show. Without too much visible effort another modern teen-ager seems able to convert everyone in his family into a servant. He has little brothers and sisters doing errands for him, and his mother duti-

fully picking up after him as he makes a shambles of the living room and the bedroom. A father seems to have been coaxed into doing all the household chores himself. At least he has been coaxed out of assigning any to his teen-age son and daughter.

Reports come in from all over the country that there is a lack of ambition and drive in young people. The average student seems bent on securing train-

*(Continued on page 10)*

A. Devaney, Inc., N. Y.



"An indolent manner and pose is their trademark. Casual clothes are designed for today's casual teen-agers—very few of them respond to the challenge of hard work."



# Young People Are NOT LAZY

by *Leland E. Gartrell*

There may be exceptions that prove the rule, but generally speaking, young people are not lazy. Each interested group interprets the word *lazy* in a different way, of course. Teen-agers who read this article will understand laziness to be one thing, while parents who read it may define laziness in another way. Those who work with youth may have still another concept of laziness. Perhaps the word *lazy* has become a wastebasket word, a meaningless catch-all term

that is applied indiscriminately to many attitudes and bodily postures of young persons. Young people have certain characteristics that may mislead some people into thinking that they are lazy.

Young people are not lazy, however. They may daydream, but they are not lazy. A rumbling volcano and a growing adolescent have much in common. Each has deep within it new and strange forces

*(Continued on page 11)*

*George Pickow*



"One is amazed at the reservoir of energy which is released when youth's imagination is captivated by the task at hand."





# Young People Are Lazy

(Continued from page 8)

ing that will enable him to get a "plushy" job requiring a minimum of effort. As one teen-ager said, "What I want is a white-collar job paying about \$5,000 a year where I won't have to knock myself out!" Modern teen-agers have money, good clothes, and good cars on their minds. Very few of them respond to the challenge of hard work, or to the excitement of contributing to the common life of all men. A grave charge is being leveled at young people. It is said that they do not regard their coming of age as a time when they will be able to serve the needs of the larger community in which they live, but rather as the time when, with the least possible effort, they will be able to make their grab for the magic ring which will enable them to get a free ride out of life.

Before one goes any further into this matter, however, he needs to take a look at the word "lazy." The dictionary defines this word as "indisposed to exertion," "indolent." When one says that young people today are lazy, he means that they are indisposed to exertion. There is about many young people an air of having decided not to become involved in labor. An indolent manner and pose is their trademark. Casual clothes are designed for today's casual teen-agers. Many cultures teach youth to be impassive through stern discipline. The impassivity of American young people comes from an indifferent casualness, however, not from discipline. "Take it easy" is their watchword. "Never stand if you can sit; never sit if you can lie down" is their basic rule. Young people who do have an enthusiasm for their subjects in school, or a love for work, have to learn to "take it easy" if they want to be considered one of the gang.

Today's teen-agers are not lazy in the sense that they just refrain from hard work; but an "indisposition to exertion" is part of their basic philosophy. This indisposition characterizes everything they do. They will do enough to "get by," but they won't overly exert themselves. Sometimes it is claimed that sports and play are youth's proper work, and that at such work they exert tremendous energy and are not lazy. Others, not denying this, still question the wisdom of teen-agers who devote themselves only

to sports and play. What other tasks do young people leave undone in order to work at play? Socrates said, "He is not idle who does nothing, but he is idle who might be better employed."

Those who are concerned about the present indisposition of young people to exert themselves are asking another question: "Under what circumstances did this indisposition develop and gain acceptance?" If American young people are lazy, how do they get away with it? Actually, it is not just an adolescent indolence that now grips young people. Their attitudes are being shaped by certain prevailing patterns in contemporary culture. Let us look at some of them.

Numerous articles in recently published magazines point out that what is wanted today in business executives is a certain personality type. It is not the hard-working man who knows all about his job who is rewarded with promotion, but rather the man who knows all about people and who can manage his job with a minimum of effort. The American ideal is not the man who earns his living by the sweat of his brow, but the executive who can keep a desk absolutely free of all evidences of business. "Let's do it" no longer presents a challenge to the brawn, brain, and imagination of America. "Let's have it done for us" instead appeals to lazy bodies and minds. With radio, TV, and newspapers all telling folks that they will live better if they buy better, it is no surprise that (to paraphrase a popular jingle) many of them "wonder where the challenge went!"

There is much in Western culture today that clouds and hides the horizons that should beckon to teen-agers and call them to the important work that needs doing among men. The present world situation, however, presents an almost overwhelming challenge to young people if they can but look through the haze and see it. Global extinction is not just an idea. It is a possibility that young people will have to live with through the remainder of their lives. The need to meet this threat is something that the teen-agers need now to resolve to meet. It is primarily because the world presents such a challenge to the character and intellect of youth that their indolence is so culpable. Who can help them? How can they be shown a vision of the work that God has for them to do in today's world?



# Young People Are Not Lazy



*(Continued from page 9)*

coming to life that demand recognition. In adolescents these forces include new spurts of energy that result in growth, an awareness of the adult world and yet a sense of separation from it, fumbling responses to the new social demands that are placed upon gangling, somewhat awkward, easily embarrassed teen-agers as they emerge from the cocoon of childhood.

One cannot simply run across the Grand Canyon. Neither can one simply jump the gap between childhood and adulthood. One must go through a growing process that varies in its pace, being sometimes rapid and sometimes slow. This growing process would be a rough road too dangerous to travel if it were not for the built-in shock-absorbers of daydreaming. The shock of rapid bodily growth is absorbed by daydreaming. Daydreaming absorbs the shock of new social pressures and expectations that teen-agers trying to become adults experience. Daydreaming is part of a process through which adolescents tie loose ends together and organize their forces for a fresh start in their awakening world. Periods of daydreaming, inconvenient as they may be for parents, friends, and trusted adults, are necessary to teen-agers. They need to spend some time dreaming about what the future may hold for them. While adolescents daydream, new worlds are being formed, new codes are being written, and new designs are being created. Can one call this kind of daydreaming laziness?

Young people may feel that their present task is not important; but they are not lazy. One is amazed at the reservoir of energy which is released when youth's imagination is captivated by the task at hand. If the job is important, according to the values of youth, youth will find energy to do it. If youth's sense of justice is violated by some unfair dealings, youth will not leave a stone unturned until justice is done. The end of the earth is not too far for youth to go to help a friend who is the victim of some catastrophe. No pack is too heavy to carry on a camping trip. No task is too time-consuming, even cleaning an old attic, if it involves exploring the yet unknown and unseen. If the task is important to the young person, if it appeals to his imagination, and if it brings him a real sense of

satisfaction in doing something worthwhile, his youthful energy is available for the work at hand.

Many of the chores and tasks assigned to young people are drab and empty of any meaning that could possibly make them worth-while for any person. Young people often do such work in a slovenly, seemingly lazy manner. All of life is filled with arduous, daily tasks that are dull, routine, and drab. Youth has not yet learned to cope with them. It requires a maturity that even many adults lack to be able to move into these routine tasks with the persistence that brings desirable results. Youth may not be stimulated by dull and drab routine, but one cannot call youth lazy!

Young people may be physically exhausted, but they are not lazy. Rising food bills are symptomatic of families with growing teen-agers. The young people seem to have holes in their big toes. Their capacity to devour unbelievable quantities of food points to the great demand that their growing bodies have for nourishment. This food consumption goes hand in glove with another aspect of adolescence, the need for relaxation. The growing body demands proper rest from its activity. While young people have great spurts of energy, they also demand certain periods of rest.

Some of youth's inactivity or reluctance to perform as expected or required by parents and community may be due to the demands of the body and mind for rest. Every person is different, having individual demands that must be met. The period of youthful inactivity will vary from person to person, depending on many conditions. The time and intensity of growing periods, the amount of activity, and the general health and welfare of growing adolescents are various factors that determine necessary periods of inactivity. Young people may be physically exhausted by the stresses and strains placed upon them. The fact that they have to rest and take it easy frequently does not at all mean that they are lazy.

Young people may be impatient with the status quo, the existing state of affairs, but they are not lazy. Many an adult has a general feeling of satisfaction with the way his life and lot are progressing. This is accompanied by a general lack of interest or inclination toward change of any kind. This is

*(Continued on page 28)*



# Do Your Children Understand

Parents constantly are on the alert to discover more and more about their children—they are eager to understand them. They read books and magazines devoted to the subject and listen to lectures on child psychology. But, often, these same parents make no effort to help a child to understand his own father and mother.

Serious family problems are kept hidden from a child in the mistaken belief that we are protecting him. We forget that our youngsters are remarkably rugged individuals and that a normal, healthy child accepts hardships quite cheerfully, providing he understands the reason behind them.

"Our children can be young only once," John Hackett told his wife. "Let's not burden them with our troubles." His sons and daughters were not told that their father, a small-scale businessman, faced bankruptcy. The children found it difficult to understand why their parents were so preoccupied and short-tempered over trifles. They became worried and developed feelings of insecurity.

When John Hackett's business finally failed and he was obliged to sell his home and move his family into a small apartment, he discovered how wrong he had been not to confide in his children. Once they understood the need for economy, his sons and daughters accepted the situation willingly. "You and Mama were so cross that we thought you didn't love us," six-year-old Janie told him. "We don't mind living in this little place now that we're all happy again."

Janie was trying to say that fine clothes and a comfortable home are less important to children than the love and affection of their par-

ents. Material things alone never can give a child a sense of security. He needs the assurance that he is important, as an individual, to his mother and father. Letting him share the family problems will help give him that assurance.

Quite often when there is a fatal illness within the family, children are packed off to stay with relatives or friends. The loss of a parent can be a damaging shock to a child who has not been properly prepared for it. Death may be a horrible mystery to a boy or girl who never has been made to understand that the God who gave us life will not abandon us even in death.

One of my dear friends, a widow approaching middle age, was informed by her family physician that she suffered from an incurable form of cancer. She had only a few months in which to prepare her three sons and one daughter for the change which would take place after she left them. She consulted her minister, and he suggested that her two older sons, one a college student, the other still in high school, be told the truth immediately. "We must try to let the two younger children learn to understand the situation gradually," he said.

The family remained together until the end came. It was difficult for the younger children to understand why their mother continued to grow more and more weak, but, when she finally died in her sleep, the shock was not so great as it would have been had they been shielded from the knowledge of their mother's illness.

During the few months of life which remained for this mother, she prepared her children to go on

without her. The older boys helped her plan the family's future. The younger children, by easy stages, were encouraged to take their problems to the kindly woman who came to take over the management of the household. The time that they spent with their mother was devoted to the sharing of pleasant moments and long conversation in which she tried to strengthen their faith in God and his goodness and wisdom.

Today, because their mother helped them to understand why she had to leave them, these children are prepared to face their difficulties without bitterness or complaint. They know that their mother loved them and that she did everything possible to make their futures safe and happy.

It is especially important that parents try to bring about a close understanding between themselves and their adolescent sons and daughters. Young people, approaching maturity, are likely to demand more freedom than their parents are willing to give them. A dictatorial attitude on the part of Dad or Mother does more harm than good. This is the time when parents must strive to be understood.

"You can't drive the car until you are 18 years old, and that's all there is to it," may settle the question as far as Father is concerned, but it doesn't settle anything in Junior's mind. There may be a perfectly legitimate reason why the boy should not be allowed to drive the family car. Perhaps he is a reckless driver. Perhaps Father is a doctor and needs the car in case of an emergency; or perhaps the parents do not approve of the use to which Junior plans to put the car.



# You?

by Ruth M. Clow

Both mother and son are in a dilemma. Mom can't understand her small boy's belligerent attitude, and Sonny can't understand why Mom is insisting that he do a disagreeable task.



Paul R. Kidd

Whatever the reason, the problem should be discussed and the boy made to understand exactly why he is not permitted the use of the car. Discussion may convince the parent that he is being unreasonable, or it may help Junior to understand the wisdom of his father's decision.

One of my young friends came close to tragedy because her parents had not made her understand why she must not be too friendly with a girl she met at a party. The Groves, until three years ago, lived in a rather small town. They were, by far, the wealthiest family in the community; but, because they did not want their children to grow up to be snobs, they sent them to the public school in the neighborhood rather than to the expensive private school that they might have afforded. They made a great point of allowing their sons and daughters to choose their own friends. Any decent, well-behaved youngster was welcome in the Grove home.

A few months after they had moved to a large city Anne Grove, a high school senior, began seeing a rather strange-acting girl named Marge. Marge was two years older than Anne. "I don't like the way that girl acts," Anne's father told Mrs. Grove. "I think she has the dope habit, but I can't be sure." Anne's parents decided that it was best to forbid their daughter to see Marge again. They did not, however, explain to Anne their reasons for doing so.

Anne, because she could not understand their attitude, continued to see Marge on the sly; and one day she and her strange friend were picked up by the police.

Marge, they said, was peddling marijuana cigarettes to teen-age boys and girls. They had arrested her in a drugstore where she had attempted to pass the cigarettes to a high school girl. Having Anne with her had been for the purpose of making her activities look innocent. Fortunately, Marge was honest enough to admit that Anne had nothing to do with her illegal transactions, and the police preferred no charges against the unsuspecting girl. Too late, the Groves realized that they had been in the wrong when they failed to tell their daughter their reasons for forbidding her friendship with Marge.

Helping our children to under-

stand us is not a simple task—nor does it ever end. It is much easier to say, "No, dear, you may not have a new dress to wear to the party," than it is to go into a detailed explanation as to why the old dress must be made to do for a time at least. It takes only a moment to say, "I'm sorry, but you are not permitted to stay out after midnight," but it may take as much as half an hour to convince a son or daughter that you have only his or her own health and well-being in mind when you forbid late dates on school nights. Once that problem has been settled, a new one is sure to arise to take its place.

(Continued on page 28)



# Her Bargain With God



LA VISTA  
Club



It was in June, 1950, that Mrs. Edna Orcutt Newton made her bargain with God. Her compassion for suffering humanity had involved her in a project for the aid of the blind and handicapped of Santa Barbara, California, at the same time that she was trying to act as a good wife and mother.

She had organized the "La Vista Club for the Sightless, Inc.," and had persuaded them in 1947 to use their meager savings of \$85.00 as the first month's rent of a downtown store building for the handling of rummage. The store had prospered even

*Illustrated by Natalie Boten*





**Mrs. Newton promised that she would devote five years of her life to God's work. Now, her five years are up, but her Christian service continues.**

**by Mark Wilcox**

beyond her fondest hopes, so that the club now had \$5,000 in the bank.

Opportunity for expansion had come in the shape of a large lot on Cota Street. A two-story brick building was already on the corner, and there was room for other buildings in the rear. The asking price was \$20,000, and it would take all of that \$5,000 for a down payment. Even if the owner could be induced to sell on such terms, Mrs. Newton would have to make sure that the club could keep up the payments and find the money for improvements. It meant giving more of her time to the project, and yet she could not neglect her growing family of three girls and a boy.

She vowed then to devote five years of her life to the work God had so wonderfully blessed, provided she could develop this permanent home for the La Vista Club and at the same time care for her family. It wasn't as though she were starting something altogether new. Her association with the blind in what she chooses to call "only a work of friendship and not welfare" began fourteen years before when she became acquainted with her first blind friend in Los Angeles and indirectly with Dr. J. W. Newton, an eye surgeon. When Dr. Newton moved his practice to Eureka in 1936, she went with him as his bride. There she could not ignore the need of those who walked in darkness. She organized the "Humboldt Blind People's Club," based on self-help principles.

When her husband moved again, her sympathetic heart soon found more friends in need. A group of blind people, calling themselves the "Lantern Club," met once a month in the home of some wealthy patron who provided a luncheon and a reading. Mrs. Newton determined to give them something more enlightening in an organization where they might realize the joy of doing things for themselves.

Thus was born the La Vista Club, the very name being proudly proposed by one of the members. By her example, doing whatever her hands found to do in the rummage store—scrubbing, washing windows, hauling rummage in her station wagon, and sorting it for sale—she inspired her blind friends to work with her and also brought volunteer sighted workers. So the profits piled up until there was \$5,000 in the bank.

Meanwhile, she and her husband had built a home, almost literally by hand. He had done the carpenter work, plumbing, and wiring, while she did the finish

nailing, plastering, and painting. A home like that with lively children in it could not be neglected either.

The fact that all four children have names beginning with their father's initials is some proof of the affectionate solidarity of this family. Joan Winifred, now 16, often provides transportation for members of the club. Jeanice Wildean, aged 13, likes to help in the rummage store on State Street. The boy, Jerrold Wayne, aged 10, and five-year-old Jolinda Wynette enjoy visiting the club for the entertainment provided, including a television set given by the "Welcome Travelers Club" of Chicago. "I do not have the problem other parents have with their children," Mrs. Newton says, "because I have given them something better to do than being on the streets."

Every Sunday afternoon a blind orchestra plays in the balcony of the auditorium, and the recording is broadcast over a local radio station. One corner of the hall has easy chairs, lounges, a television set, and a radio, and is a popular meeting place of an evening. On Sundays members of the club gather for an hour of worship and Bible study.

Through the aid of sighted friends, who have helped with sizable cash donations, and by the work of their own hands, these handicapped persons have put a bright new kitchen in the main building and have erected four workshops and a two-story dormitory at the rear of the lot on Cota Street. The rummage store continues to supply working income, and an additional outlet for second-hand furniture has been started in an adjacent building.

Her bargain with God has paid off well. Mrs. Newton figures the Cota Street property is now worth \$75,000, all without benefit of financial drives or dipping into the community chest. For after all it is not a work of charity, she insists, but is for the purpose of lending a helping hand. What volunteer cash donations have been received have all gone into making this self-help project reach more people.

No sighted person gets paid for her services, not even Mrs. Newton. Though her five years are up, her bargain with God, she finds, must go on. Her children are growing into useful and responsible citizens so that she has more time to help the blind and handicapped of Santa Barbara learn to do things for themselves.





# Kitchen Tips for

For a tasty, money-saving sandwich, drain the oil from a can of sardines and mash. Add two teaspoons of mayonnaise, a little relish, and a touch of horseradish. Blend thoroughly and spread on bread or a split roll. Spread mayonnaise lightly on the other half; pop into the broiler for a few minutes, press the halves firmly together, and serve hot.

\* \* \*

To keep your bread moist and fresh, put an open package of brown sugar in your bread box. Each preserves the other; the sugar will stay soft and not lump, and the bread or biscuits will not dry out.

\* \* \*

Another good and nourishing sandwich is made by spreading canned baked beans on toast, topping with either grated or sliced cheese, and a half-slice of bacon. Broil until the bacon is crisp.

\* \* \*

Finely chopped chives added to the biscuit dough make delicious biscuits to serve with meat or poultry dishes.

Tea is good for more than drinking; it will remove the shine from your dark suit. Dampen your pressing cloth in strong tea before you use it. It will also remove any spots that are on the suit.

\* \* \*

Some women use the labor- and time-saving method of making double the amount of dough for biscuits and rolls at one time and storing the remainder in the refrigerator for later use. If you do this, use water instead of milk, for best results.

\* \* \*

Your hamburger balls will have new zest if they are lightly spread with mustard and horseradish before frying.

\* \* \*

All new shoes and leather wallets and purses should be polished before using for the first time. This protects the leather.

\* \* \*

The flavor of French fries is heightened when you sprinkle a few drops of vinegar over them before frying.



# The Busy Housewife

by Mary Elsna

When the children entertain their friends at a party, make them extra happy with an easy dessert. Simply roll large scoops of vanilla or chocolate ice cream in chopped salted peanuts and serve with chocolate sauce.

\* \* \*

To glamorize your rolls, pull and twist them a bit and coat with melted cheese and flakes of caraway seed. They will be fluffier if you grease your pan and warm it in the oven before using.

\* \* \*

Shredded coconut dries out quickly, once the package is opened. But you can make it as fresh as new by putting it in a bowl of milk for 15 minutes.

\* \* \*

The best drawer lining is linoleum; it stays put and needs but an occasional wipe with a damp cloth to pick up the dust. A large roll of linoleum is very inexpensive.

Place a slice of cheese on dark bread and cover with a thick slice of tomato and two half-strips of bacon. When broiled, the bacon becomes crisp, the tomato browns around the edges and absorbs the bacon flavor, and the cheese lightly melts into the bread. Serve with pickles and olives.

\* \* \*

If you want especially hearty biscuits, roll the dough thinner, place leftovers, such as ham, cheese, or cold cuts on one square, and cover with another square.

\* \* \*

Baking powder biscuits are quick to make; but if you knead the dough for half a minute after mixing, it will greatly improve the texture.

\* \* \*

To speed up biscuit cutting, with less waste to boot, cut your dough into squares with a sharp knife instead of using the usual round biscuit cutter.

You can make hot plate mats that are unusual, as well as decorative, using bottle caps and scraps of material. Cut out round pieces of cloth to fit each bottle cap, big enough to cover, gather, and tuck under. When all the caps are covered, sew together in any shape you desire.

\* \* \*

Balloons make intriguing place cards for a children's party. Inflate large toy balloons and tie one to the back of each child's chair. With bold letters write the child's name on it with red nail polish.

\* \* \*

Grated orange rind sprinkled into your pastry dough will dramatize your rolls, muffins, or biscuits, delighting the taste of even an epicure.

\* \* \*

Spice up cocoa with a dash of cinnamon. Roll a marshmallow in cinnamon, place it in the cup, and pour the cocoa.



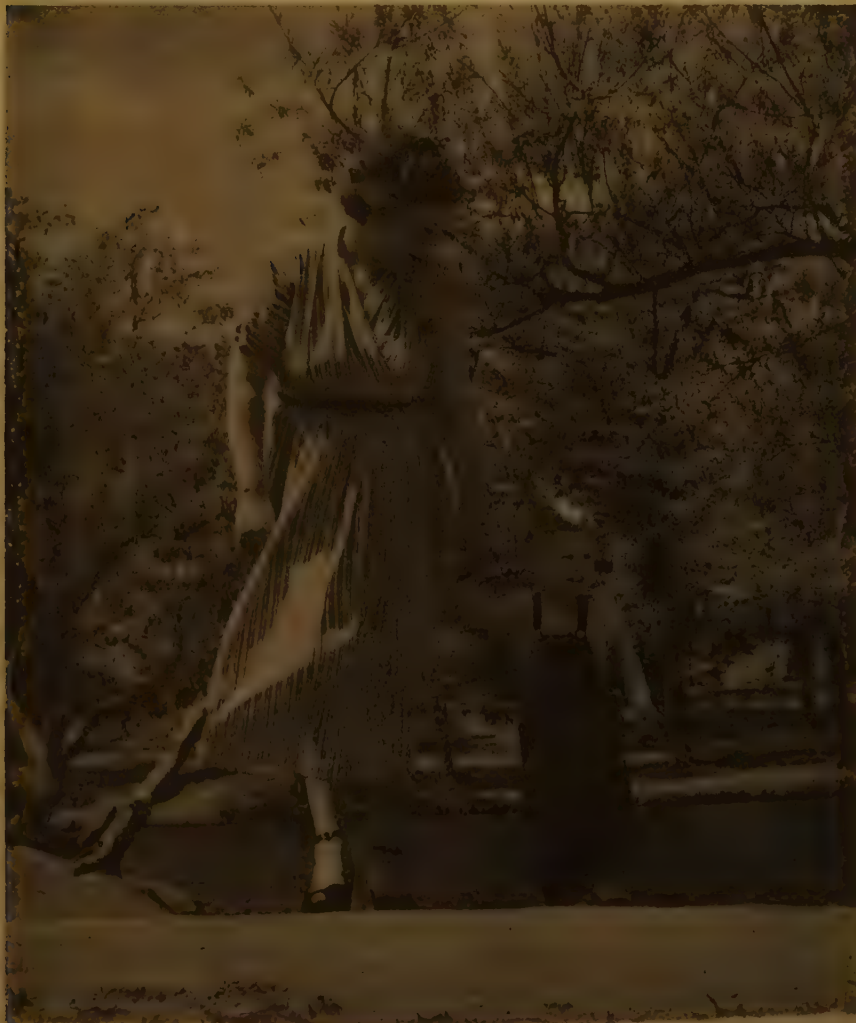
# Worship in the family with children

## To Use with Younger Children

### A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of them fit into the meditations in that booklet.

George A. Hammond



### What Is Spring?

When Michael woke up, he heard a bird singing. Then he heard Mother's voice in the kitchen as she said, "Isn't this a lovely spring morning?"

"What's spring?" Michael called from his room.

Mother came into the room laughing. "Who wants to know what spring is?" she asked, picking Michael up and hugging him.

"I do," Michael said, and he hugged Mother.

"We will go to the park this morning and I'll show you," said Mother. "Now let's get dressed and have breakfast!"

As Mother got Michael's breakfast, she sang a happy song. Michael could still hear the bird singing.

"I like singing," Michael said. "I like to hear birds, and I like it when you sing."

"And I like spring, so I sing," Mother answered.

Soon they were ready to go to the park. Mother drove the car slowly. "See the blossoms on the trees?" she asked Michael. "They tell us spring is here. Hear the birds singing? They tell us, too, that it is spring. Feel the soft wind blowing? That is another way we know that spring is here."

At the park, there were many birds singing. All the trees were beautiful with flowers and with little new leaves. They were a lovely green in color. There was the sweet, fresh smell of flowers and warm earth in the air. Mother breathed deeply and

(Continued on page 28)

Theme for March

**I Like  
Spring**



# To Use with Older Children

## I Like Spring!

It was a beautiful spring morning. Joey stood at his window, smelling the fragrance of blossoms on the soft breezes. He could hear the birds chattering in the trees as they built their nests. He could hear the bees buzzing about the flowers blooming in his mother's garden.

The soft, white, fleecy clouds were beautiful against the blue sky. Then Joey heard his dog, Lady, bark.

"Where is she?" Joey asked himself. "I'd better find her before she gets into Mom's flowers, or into anyone's." So he turned from the window and raced outside.

"Here, Lady, here, Lady," Joey called. Lady came bounding around the corner of the house, delighted to see Joey.

"Let's take a walk, Lady," Joey said, and Lady eagerly went trotting beside him. They walked down the main street of the little town, then on out of town on a dirt road. Sometimes Joey talked to Lady. Sometimes Lady went off on her own interests, sniffing around a hole, scratching at the soft earth, chasing a rabbit or a squirrel, or barking at a low-darting bird.

Joey walked slowly, watching the birds as they carried bits of dry grass in their bills. "That's for making a nice, soft nest," he told Lady. "Soon there will be eggs in the nest, then baby birds. That's why I like spring!"

They walked slowly on. After a while they came to a small field, blue with violets. Joey went down on his knees and buried his nose in the fragrant blossoms, and Lady lay down, too. "These smell so good, Lady," Joey said. "That's why I like spring!" Lady thumped her tail as if to say, "I know! I like them, too!"

A robin sat on a limb nearby. He turned his head this way and that. He began to sing. He sang until Joey thought his little throat would burst! "Lady, listen to that," Joey said. "Did you ever hear a robin sing like that? He must be trying to tell us that his nest is finished, and that there already are blue eggs in it. That's why I like spring!"

Joey got up and started to walk on. Lady got up and followed. They came to a small stream, and there were nine baby ducks swimming closely behind their mother.

"Oh, oh," laughed Joey. "Lady, aren't they cute? See how soft and downy they are. And see how proud their mother is! O Lady, that's why I like spring!"

Lady lapped up some of the water. She did not even bark at the baby ducks. She dropped down on the soft bank while Joey talked softly to the mother duck. She chattered softly as if telling him about her babies, but none of them came near to Joey. So, Joey walked on.

The path led to the top of a hill. Joey and Lady had climbed it together many times. "It never looks the same," Joey thought. "In spring it looks new; in summer it looks quiet and restful; in fall it is full of color; in winter it looks bare and lonesome."

Soon Joey and Lady came to the top of the hill. Here moss grew, soft as velvet. It was a bright, beautiful shade of green. Bushes had new little leaves growing on them. Here was a new flower growing that Joey had never seen before. He knelt beside it. "Now what do you suppose this is?" Joey asked, and Lady sniffed about it inquisitively. "I never before saw a flower here like this. I'll have to bring Mom up here to see if she knows. Guess it must be like Mom always says, 'God planned it that way.' Mom read some verses in the Bible last night.

'Lo, the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.'

Lady, that's why I like spring!"

Gedde Harmon





# For Family Worship

## Call to Worship

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God upon the lyre!  
He covers the heavens with clouds,  
he prepares rain for the earth,  
he makes grass grow upon the hills.

—Psalm 147:7-8.

**Hymn:** Sing the hymn printed on this page or choose from the following: "Blue Sky, Soft and Clear," primary pupil's book for the first year, spring quarter, page 6; "All Things Bright and Beautiful," primary pupil's book for the second year, spring quarter, page 6.

**Poem:** Use one of the poems printed on this page or choose from the following: "Only God Can Know," primary pupil's book for the first year, spring quarter, page 11; "I Love God's Tiny Creatures," primary pupil's book for the second year, spring quarter, page 5; "Fairest Lord Jesus," primary pupil's book for the third year, spring quarter, page 10.

## When Spring Unlocks the Flowers

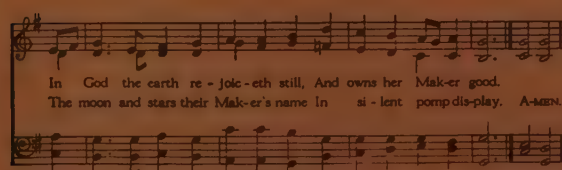
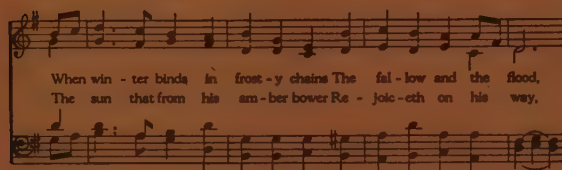
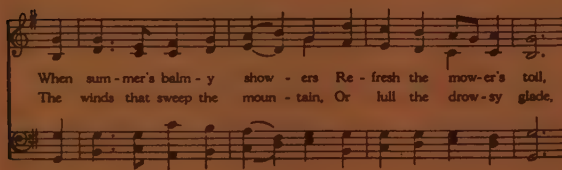
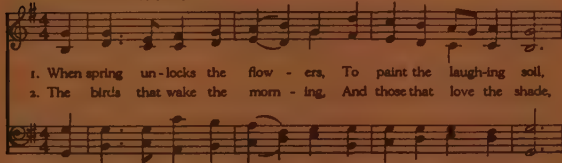
RONALD HENRY, 1783-1836

GOSTERWOOD, 7, 6, 7, 6, 8, 6, 8, 6

English traditional melody

Arr. by R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, 1879-

In moderate time, joyously



From "The English Hymnal." Permission Oxford University Press.

**Meditation:** Plan your own meditation based on the scripture used as the call to worship, or on the hymn, or the poem used; or choose your own passage of scripture to talk about.

**Prayer:** Use the litany, "I Like Spring," or use this prayer: Dear God, we are glad for the seasons as they come and go. We thank you now for spring that comes to the earth. Help us to remember that your plans are for our well-being and good. Amen.

## A Bible Poem

Praise the LORD from the earth,  
Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
Beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!

—Psalm 148:7a, 9-10.

## I Like Spring

There's no other time like the spring, O God,  
*Hear us say, "We thank you."*  
For that earthy smell when rain meets sod,  
*Hear us say, "We thank you."*  
For the heavenly hue of the bluebird's wing,  
*Hear us say, "We thank you."*  
For the white-flower'd plum where he sits to sing,  
*Hear us say, "We thank you."*  
For the breeze that sets the trees a-nod,  
*Hear us say, "We thank you."*  
There's no other time like the spring, O God,  
*Hear us say, "We thank you."*

—Mazelle Wildes Thomas

## What Is a Seed?

What is a seed?  
I hardly know.  
Placed in the ground,  
A seed will grow.

It sends a plant  
Above the sod;  
I'm sure it feels  
The touch of God.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson

## Morning Prayer

Thank you, dear God, for morning light,  
And for your loving plan  
That gives sweet rest through all the night,  
To animal and man.

Thank you, dear God, for springtime, too,  
For buds on flower and tree;  
For song of bird, for sky so blue,  
That turn my thoughts to Thee!

—Jessie B. Carlson





# The Redbird Coat

by Fern Braden



Emily lived in town. Elmer was in her grade at school, but he lived in the country. Emily and Elmer liked to watch the birds and listen to them sing.

One day Mother bought Emily a bright red coat and a little red hat with a black velvet chin strap. When she wore them to school, the teacher said, "You look like a redbird, Emily."

"Thank you," replied Emily with a smile.

She liked being called a redbird. She took a mirror from her pocket and took a look at herself. She turned her head from side to side to get a better view of her little red hat with the black velvet chin strap.

Elmer watched her for a minute. Then he decided it would be fun to tease her.

"Miss Barnes," said Elmer, "I've seen whole flocks of cardinals, or redbirds, in the country. I've watched them many times."

"Have you something to tell us about cardinals, Elmer?" asked Miss Barnes encouragingly.

"Yes," he answered. "I've noticed that it's the boys in the cardinal families that wear the bright red feathers, not the girls. The girls wear duller colors. Don't you think Emily should give me her cardinal coat and hat?"

Emily hid her mirror in her pocket. She thought she was going to cry. The other pupils laughed in fun. Miss Barnes complimented Elmer for being so observant of birds. Then she became very serious.

"Elmer," said Miss Barnes, "it is the boy cardinals that wear the bright red feathers. You would no doubt look very handsome in Emily's redbird coat. First,

though, let me ask you a question."

Elmer looked uneasy. "What is the question, Miss Barnes?"

"Have you ever watched a bird preen his feathers?" she began.

"Why—yes, lots of times," hesitated Elmer.

"Will you preen your redbird coat if Emily gives it to you?" she asked, coming to the point.

Elmer was undecided. "What will I have to do?"

Miss Barnes explained what he should do. "Take good care of the redbird coat," she said. "Hang it on a hanger when you are not wearing it. Brush it carefully each time you wear it. Will you, Elmer?" Miss Barnes was fairly demanding an answer, and

Elmer was feeling very uncomfortable.

"Well—oh—I don't know," replied Elmer. "Sometimes I am very careless with my coats."

"Dear me!" exclaimed Miss Barnes. "How are we ever going to solve this difficult problem?"

Elmer was glad he could at last drop the whole matter. He took a quick glance at Emily and then he said, "I think Emily should keep her cardinal coat and hat. Don't you think so, too, Miss Barnes? After all, we aren't birds. We boys always let the girls wear bright colors if they want to. We don't care." Elmer shrugged his shoulders with a smile. Miss Barnes smiled, too, and said,

*(Continued on page 28)*



*Illustrated by  
Natalie Roten*



# CRISIS EXPERIENCE

## Study Article and Guide for Parents' Groups

With tears in her eyes the young mother draws her children to her. "Grandma has died and has gone to heaven to be with Jesus," she tells them.

Tenseness is evident as Janie, age 14, is told that Dad's new job necessitates the family's moving a hundred miles away. "But *all* my friends are *here!*" she weeps.

"I won't be much help around here any more. You'll have to do it all now, Mom," quietly murmurs a middle-aged father, who has been told that he will never see again.

"The doctor says that we'll be parents in just seven more months, Jim," laughingly admits a young bride.

And so there is crisis after crisis everywhere we turn in life. Family living is particularly full of crises. Try as we may, we cannot avoid these situations. They will appear. With them we must deal constantly.

Crisis experiences are a normal, natural part of life. (Indeed, it is these very crisis experiences which give us opportunities to grow up emotionally.) Fear of life's crisis situations is pointless. Attempts to avoid them are relatively futile.

Such things as marriages, birth, illnesses and disabilities, deaths, sudden poverty (or wealth), coming old age, and moving are things which happen to, or affect, all of us. Fleeing these experiences would be fleeing life itself. Dealing with these experiences is leading a life of development and growth.

Christ dealt with crisis situations throughout his ministry—probably more serious ones than most of us will ever be called upon to face. Christianity has developed time-tested principles for dealing with these perplexing happenings. Certainly, Christians have never been immune from, nor have they been promised immunity from, "these times that try men's souls." But Christians have been building within themselves the character traits which become their successful tools for dealing with each new crisis experience. The best place that we know to build Christians is within the family.

Fortunately, it is true that a Christian home will be able to avoid a number of unpleasant crisis situations, merely because each of its members is a true follower of Christ. A good Christian home will probably not have to face such problems as divorce, infidelity, alcoholism, or suicide. Its members will not be lawbreakers, liars, or deceitful, untrustworthy persons.

While there are some crisis experiences that Christians may not be called upon to face, most crisis experiences are common to us all. Christianity does not eliminate the crisis: It builds the person who can face and withstand the crisis, and *gain* by it, not be *broken* by it.

Perhaps nothing is more important in building our Christian homes than learning about how our religion helps us in times of "anxiety or danger." (One definition for a crisis; another is, "the deciding event in the course of anything.")

Let us look for a moment, once again, at some typical crisis situations, and the ways that people like you and me are facing them.

1. Kathy, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop, is planning to be married in the spring. She has been the whole life of her parents, particularly her mother. Mom is so upset over the whole thing that she refuses even to discuss the matter with anyone, least of all with Kathy.

2. George and Betty have been married for five years. They had planned a big family, but no children have come. They do not mention the matter, but Betty cries a lot when she is alone, and George is growing cynical and sarcastic.

3. Jack and Bertha have been married for about twenty years—have spent nearly all of it fighting "like cats and dogs." They admit the quarreling, say that they love each other, but continually claim that there is no solution to their unhappy home, and refuse to see a counselor.

4. Don and Elberta could find no other solution to their problem, when Don's father died, than to



# N FAMILY LIFE

by Marge Frank

take his mother into their home. Now chaos has resulted. Don blames Elberta. Elberta blames her mother-in-law. Poor Mother blames God for having taken her spouse.

Here we have showed four ways of dealing with typical crisis experiences, all of them bad. Mrs. Winthrop (1) refuses to face her problem. George and Betty (2) do nothing but feel sorry for themselves. Jack and Bertha (3) will not even look for a solution to their trial, because they are sure that there is none. Don and Elberta (4) and Don's mother use the easy and common practice of blaming others.

Now for another look at some crisis experiences and the way some Christian folk are facing them.

1. Mr. Fields, father of four, has just lost his job; but the family have accepted the problem. Mrs. Fields has gone back to her old office job, temporarily, she hopes. Bob and Tom, the two older boys, are doing all the part-time work that they can find, while Irma, the daughter, baby-sits with little brother Joe as much as is necessary. They all do what they can to help cheer up Dad.

2. Dorothy, age 17, has "fallen madly in love" with a boy that her parents feel is totally unsuited for her. But Dorothy's parents talk calmly with her about the problem. They have tried to get better acquainted with the boy. Dorothy has promised to date him for at least a year before they even talk of an engagement.

3. Floyd and Nancy have three small boys who fight constantly, in spite of all the conscientious and loving training of their parents. Floyd feels that their mother spoils them. Nancy is sure that their father's harshness has caused this. They are not content, however, to let the problem "take care of itself," because of the hard feelings which are already building up in their home. So they talk it over with their Christian friends, their minister, and the youngsters' school and church school teachers. They soon realize that both of them are somewhat to blame,

All of us at some time or other face crises, and we must learn to deal with them intelligently. This man has just told his family that he has lost his job.

photo by art





while their overconcern has tended to magnify a common problem.

4. Phyllis and her two children have had to move in with her parents while her husband is in the service. What could be a very complicated situation is working out fairly smoothly, because these folk talk things over, pray together, and do many things together, including attending church together regularly.

We have now seen four much better ways of dealing with crisis experiences. The Fieldses (1) have accepted their problem and are facing it courageously together. Dorothy and her parents (2) are working together for a Christian answer to their differences. Floyd and Nancy (3) received help from their Christian friends and their church, when they needed it. Phyllis (4) and her family are gaining the strength

and wisdom that they need in their situation, by acting as Christians should.

These are ways, practical Christian ways, of meeting crisis experiences. But what can we do before the crisis is upon us, in preparation for facing it wisely? There are ways by which we can ready ourselves and our families for the times of stress which we shall surely have to meet.

Families can best prepare themselves for the inevitable crisis experiences by strengthening their family unit. Families, as nations, can easily be defeated when they are divided among themselves; but the family which is in rapport—whose harmony and understanding and love are strong—is not easily broken by outside difficulties which may beset it. The members of this family gain strength from each other.

## For "Crisis Experiences in Family Life"

# Study Guide

### I. Leader's Preparation

The success or failure of this meeting depends largely upon whether the leader thoroughly understands what we are trying to accomplish. If possible, the leader should read the study article more than once, long enough before the meeting to have thought it through, and to be familiar with its material. He should keep in mind the basic assumption that the crisis experiences in life are for the most part unavoidable, but that Christianity has suggestions to help us face these crisis situations wisely and successfully.

Parents are interested in knowing these Christian suggestions. All of us, working together, can help each other considerably in finding what help Christianity has to offer Christians when crises come.

It will be necessary to plan ahead concerning the type of program which you feel will best fit your group. If any of the suggested visual materials (the filmstrip or movies), or the books,

mentioned at the close of this section, are to be used, these must be ordered immediately.

Someone should give as complete a résumé of the study article as possible, both to refresh the memories of those who have read it, and to inform those who have not. This résumé need not exceed ten minutes.

The group will find it helpful if all have been notified concerning the topic for the meeting. If all those who might possibly attend are asked ahead of time to think about crisis situations that they are interested in discussing, then your meeting will have more life than it would have if no forethought had been given. Perhaps it might even be wise to ask that specific crisis situations be written down and brought along, to insure some previous thought on the part of your group.

Undoubtedly, the leader will himself come prepared with as many examples of crisis experiences in Christian family life as possible. Also, if he will read Paul's 1 Corinthians 13, describing

Christian love, and Ephesians 6:13-18, describing the Christian individual, he will feel better acquainted with the characteristics of a Christian, and what we mean when we speak of Christian virtues and the necessity of obtaining them.

Since several of the reading materials mentioned are quite inexpensive, we should like to urge that the leader order as many as possible, to be passed among the group to be read later. Perhaps these could then be exchanged at future gatherings. If the leader can read these himself before the meeting, he will be better equipped to help the others.

### II. Conducting the Meeting

Perhaps it is needless to mention that it is always helpful to open such a meeting with a prayer for guidance. Of course, it is not necessary that the leader give the prayer himself.

If one of the suggested visual aids is available, it might be used either as an introduction or as a conclusion to the meeting. The leader will decide which is best for his program, on the basis of which visual material is used and how much time is available.

Before the discussion section of your program begins, it will be wise to have the summary of the study article given (for which previous arrangements were made). It may be necessary to read the examples of crisis experiences found in the article. We hope, however, that the article itself will not be read aloud in its entirety, but rather reviewed by someone thoroughly acquainted with its content.

Following the review, the members of your group will have opportunities to express themselves concerning the Christian home and the crisis experience. If your group numbers more than fifteen

(Continued on page 28)



The Christian family, like a chain, is only as strong as its weakest link. So *each* member must be developed and strengthened in preparation for the times of stress which come upon us all. Such Christian virtues as love, purity, charity, honor, faithfulness, forgiveness, a calmness in the face of adversity, and the many others with which we are all familiar must be developed in each, for the sake of all.

Mother's and Father's example is of the highest importance in working toward a strong family which can "take it": Such things as going to church, reading the Bible, saying grace at the table, and family worship are necessary in developing the Christian family's strength. So, also, are the sharing of as many other activities as possible—picnics, entertainments, trips, and evenings at home.

Helping other families who are facing difficulties will make us into people who can better face such things ourselves. (Mrs. Brown takes food to the woman next door who has just lost her husband. Mr. Brown mows her lawn, while little Alice Brown does some errands for her.)

Finally, let us remember that as the weight lifter is able to lift ever greater weights because of those he has lifted in the past, so we grow strong in character by facing and conquering adversity. Often we pray, "God, make us strong, patient, and kind," and then proceed to ask him to remove the very situations which will help develop these virtues within us.

It is easy to see that the strongest tree in the forest is the one which has fought the hardest to exist. So, we and our families can gain, not be defeated, by the crisis experiences that we face.

BIBLEGRAM

by Hilda E. Allen

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

A To produce chickens from eggs	43 81 35 120 1
B A stew made of fresh clams	45 26 9 90 41 4 51
C Horse conversation	110 102 23 38 55
D To hang fluttering in the air, or on the wing	64 61 3 30 14
E A large but cowardly animal of Africa	70 5 117 100 122
F Thin soup	123 103 20 84 71
G The value of something	91 74 119 105 121
H To lift or raise with much effort	96 12 106 29 18
I An image sculptured in marble, as "Liberty"	24 10 67 42 7 28
J Forceful; not weak	76 49 94 52 8 111
K Part of a bookcase	113 17 125 32 62
L Intensely cold	53 88 36 39 82 59
M One who occupies a house	16 66 58 93 115 54
N To spend time lazily or idly	19 40 114 77 87 47
O One of the beasts in the den with Daniel	124 109 85 107

P Cried like an owl	11 6 50 63 72 73
Q Wandering in the wrong way	13 60 79 21 2 95
R One of a flight of steps	104 25 48 112 86
S Time for a spring bonnet	75 33 116 69 57 31
T Awaken from sleep	118 46 78 99 98 56
U Gave out medicine	108 89 34 65 101
V Person who helps in time of trouble	80 68 97 44 37 22
W Require	83 27 92 15

(Solution on page 28)

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9
10			11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18
19	20	21	22		23	24		25	26	27	
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	
39	40	41		42	43	44		45	46	47	48
49	50	51		52	53		54	55	56		57
58	59	60		61	62		63	64	65		66
67	68	69	70		71	72		73	74	75	76
	77	78	79		80	81	82	83	84		85
86		87	88	89	90		91	92	93	94	95
	96	97	98		99	100	101	102	103	104	105
106	107	108	109	110	111		112	113		114	115
116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125		



# A Pat and Biddy Party



A real Irish party, you surely know,  
Is just the thing when March winds blow;  
And so we hope you'll come and be,  
Our guests at this Irish jamboree;  
When we'll try and honor the Emerald Isle,  
In the usual jolly Shamrock style.

*Pat and Biddy*

Hour

Place

Date



by Loie Brandom

As the guests arrive, pin on each one a large green cardboard shamrock. In the center of each shamrock have a white letter taken from the word. These letters will be used later in a game.

The event to start the party off on the right foot until all the guests have arrived will be a **Pat Murphy Tournament**. Two "knights" should be carefully chosen for their sportsmanship and good nature. Arm each knight with a barbecue fork on the prongs of which is thrust a big Irish potato. Each knight then mounts a floor mop or broom, in lieu of a horse, and the joust begins, each knight trying to knock the potato from the lance of his rival. If more than one joust takes place, the winners may be matched against each other, and the final winner can be awarded a "knight's helmet" made of green crepe paper adorned with a green feather for victory.

Follow this event with a more quiet form of entertainment. Have previously prepared a small table containing as many different objects suggesting the Emerald Isle as possible. There should be green rubber snakes, a "Blarney Stone," a shillelagh, a white clay pipe, the flag of Ireland, a large piece of cork, an "Irish" potato, a plastic pig, picture of an Irish jaunting cart, and anything else suggestive of Ireland. At the proper time bring this table into the room where all may see it. Give the contestants several minutes in which to look at the objects. Then remove the table from the room and award a prize to the contestant who can write down the longest list of objects seen on the table.

The Shamrock Game mentioned before is played in this manner. The white letters appearing on the shamrocks, when assembled, can be made to spell out the word "shamrock." Award a prize to the group which is first to collect the necessary letters and arrange them in proper sequence. If the company is a large one, there will probably be more than one group forming the word; so be prepared to give second and even third prizes.

While the guests are still wearing their letters, another game can be played with them by forming words from those same letters. Some possible words are ram, rock, scram, ham, sham, cram, ark, shack, shock, mash, hark, smack, am, arc, mock, etc. Each player has a pencil and paper. When the players with the right letters line up to form a word, each one writes that word on his slip of paper. The winners may be determined by either counting the letters that each one has piled up, or by giving the award to the one who has been a part in the greatest number of words.

A Biddy Race for the girls only. Divide the girls into two groups and provide two aprons with long strings and two Irish caps with elastic draw strings. Line each group up behind the starting tape and

hand a cap and apron to the leader of each line. At the word GO, each girl ties the apron securely around her waist, puts the cap on her head, and runs to the goal line and back. There she hands the cap and apron to the next girl in her line, who repeats the performance while the first runner takes her place at the back of the line, and so on until all have made the run. The side whose last contestant is first to return to the starting line, wins. Judges at the starting tape should see that the aprons and caps are properly tied and adjusted each time. Here's hoping the apron strings do not get tangled up.

**Pigs in Pasture** is a hoax that some girl may play on the boys. Of course, there is no such game. When the leader has gotten all the boys down on their knees with their forefingers touching certain certain spots on the rug, she will say, "Are you sure you don't know how to play Pigs in Pasture?" When they yell "no," she will say, "Well, I don't either." She should make a quick getaway at this point to keep from being mobbed.

Carving the best pig from a potato is a stunt worthy of a prize, and as a forfeit in some game let two losers eat mashed potatoes from a plate without the aid of fork, spoon, or fingers.

The prizes should be green, if possible, and something suggestive of Ireland. A plastic toy piggy bank, a small bottle of green perfume, a cake of green soap, Irish linen handkerchiefs for both men and girls, a copy of an Irish song, clay pipes for the men, and dainty aprons for the women all make suitable prizes for a Pat and Biddy party.

A novel idea for serving refreshments would be to provide slips of white paper on which the following list is written with green ink.

1. A necessity for blarney
2. A bit o' Irish pep
3. Pat's preference
4. Shamrocks
5. Emerald Isles
6. Lakes o' Killarney

Give the guests a few minutes in which to record their guesses as to what the food will be. Ask them to sign their names to the slips so they can be collected and judged. The correct list would be the following:

1. Tongue sandwiches
2. Pimento cheese sandwiches
3. Potato salad in green lettuce leaf cups
4. Fruit salad in green gelatin molds in shamrock shape.
5. Irregular shaped pieces of green frosted white cake.
6. Hot cocoa completely covered with whipped cream tinted a delicate green.



## ● Young People Are Not Lazy!

(Continued from page 11)

usually not true of youth. Young people have a fresh, not a traditional, outlook on life. They dream of a new world and refuse to be bound by the limitations of the present. They have a combination of great energy and profound courage that make the impossible seem possible and the unknown seem challenging. There is no status quo in the dictionary used by young people. Growth defies the status quo because change is a part of growth. Because of these qualities woven into the fabric of youth, young people are much closer to the heart of the universe than are their elders who cling to the status quo.

Youthful vitality, confronted with an unyielding status quo, often becomes impatient. Impatience gives rise to discouragement. Discouragement leads to frustration and those symptoms that are sometimes referred to as laziness. Youth demands change. Many of the changes that youth wants are sensible. Those which are reasonable should be accepted by adults, so that a sense of worth can begin to give encouragement to the dreams and desires of young people. Youth is impatient with the status quo, but one can hardly call the frustration that young people have because of unyielding systems or customs a quality of laziness.

Among young people there exists a minority, a significant minority, that may have paralyzing problems, but they are not lazy. Fear, frustration, emotional trauma, and handicaps are a part of many lives during adolescence. They limit, to a great degree, the ability of young people to meet the social and physical requirements that they encounter in the adult world. Those whose early years were marked by inadequate home life, and who lived in homes where stresses and strains were so great that they were deprived of security, are emotionally handicapped as they reach adolescence. New situations then demand an emotional strength which they do not have, and new stresses and strains call for greater emotional maturity than they possess. What wonder that in such circumstances some young people just let things ride!

Consistent and vicious rebellion against parental and community authority and mores, quiet withdrawal into the shell of inactivity, anti-social behavior, and/or a stubborn refusal to conform to the wishes and desires of adults may merely indicate the presence of problems that are of too great an import to be written off as natural, adolescent reactions. Such behavior may indicate that there are other problems that need the studied care of the parents or a professionally trained person in the community. Such persons include ministers who are familiar with the technique of good counseling, family physicians, teachers, or a professionally trained

counselor. If young people need counsel and help, see that they get it. Do not make a shallow diagnosis of their behavior symptoms and decide that they are merely lazy. Something may well be bothering young persons here and there, but it is unlikely to be a lazy bug, because young people are not lazy!

## ● Do Your Children

### Understand You?

(Continued from page 13)

Many of the sorrows and griefs of this world are due to a lack of understanding. It is especially pathetic when there is a lack of understanding on the part of children for their parents. Antagonisms spring up because a son or daughter is convinced that his or her parents are unfair and unreasonable. Families should discuss all differences and try to come to a solution of all problems with a complete understanding of both sides of the question.

We, as parents, should be willing to say, "Look, children, this family has a problem which concerns all of us. Your father and mother have been worried and upset. We'll tell you all about it, and then you will understand why we have been short-tempered lately."

After such a confession, any son or daughter will be willing to overlook any momentary sharpness on the part of the parents, knowing that once the problem has been solved, Dad and Mom will be themselves again. Do your children understand you?

## ● The Redbird Coat

(Continued from page 21)

"That's very generous of you, Elmer."

Emily had been listening with interest. Now everyone looked in her direction, expecting her to look happy again. Instead, she began sobbing tearfully.

"Why are you crying, Emily?" asked everyone with surprise.

"Don't cry, Emily, please!" begged Elmer. "Here is an apple for you. I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings. I was only teasing, and Miss Barnes taught me a lesson."

Emily stopped crying long enough to take the apple that Elmer offered her. As her sobs became less frequent, she tried to explain why she was crying.

"I can keep my bright red coat and hat, but think of all the little girl cardinals that must always wear dull colors. I feel so sorry for them," said Emily mournfully.

Miss Barnes put her hand on Emily's shoulder and replied. "I'm glad you are thinking of the little girl cardinals and not of yourself. Don't worry. Their colors protect them. They blend in with the color of their nests and the color of the branches of the shrubs and the trees where they usually build their nests."

Emily was smiling at last. "I understand now, I think. Their dull colors protect them on their nests, so they cannot be easily seen by their enemies."

"That's right," replied Miss Barnes. Then she said to Elmer, who was looking very much pleased that everything had turned out happily, "Elmer, you have helped us learn a valuable lesson about birds because you are very observant. I think Emily has forgiven you for teasing her."

"Yes, I have," agreed Emily quickly. "It was a very good lesson, Elmer, . . . and thanks for the apple too."

## ● What Is Spring?

(Continued from page 18)

asked, "Doesn't it smell good? That is another thing that tells us spring is here."

Michael nodded his head, watching the birds flying about.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time," Mother said softly.

"Who?" Michael asked.

"God," answered Mother.

## Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 25)

"Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable." (Isaiah 40: 28)

### The Words

A Hatch	L Frigid
B Chowder	M Tenant
C Neigh	N Lounge
D Hover	O Lion
E Hyena	P Hooted
F Broth	Q Astray
G Worth	R Stair
H Heave	S Easter
I Statue	T Arouse
J Strong	U Dosed
K Shelf	V Friend

W Need

## ● Study Guide

(Continued from page 24)

to eighteen, it may be wise to divide into two or more groups, each having a discussion leader.

At this time several approaches are possible. Perhaps one of the best might be for the discussion leader to ask the participants what crisis situation they feel least able to cope with, and why. Then let all discuss the intelligent, Christian things to do.

If the group is either unimaginative in their suggestions, or slow or unwilling to give examples to discuss, the leader

(Continued on page 30)



# Family Counselor

**Q.** My younger son, who lives in a nearby city, left his wife and five small children. He comes once a week to leave her money for groceries, including payment on the home. He takes the children out, but not her. I am very much worried. Please tell me what to do. Shall I help them? I have never interfered.

**A.** You would be less than human were you not worried because of this situation and of course you want to do anything that you can to help both your son and his lovely family. Unfortunately, parents are not always the ones who can be of greatest help to their children in situations such as this, and as a rule, therefore, they are very wise if they do not interfere.

About all that you can do is to keep the avenues of communication open between you and your son and his family. You will want to maintain friendly relationships with the family, visiting them and having them in your own home.

If your daughter-in-law wants to share with you what she considers to be the reasons for your son's leaving her, be a sympathetic and understanding listener, trying to be as objective as possible. This will be difficult, of course, as you probably will find yourself rising to his defense. Realize that in most situations such as this, there may be two sides to the case.

You will also keep alive your normal relationships with your son. He will more or less expect you to be worried, but try not to be critical either of him or of his

wife. As with the wife, if he wants to "open up" to you, listen to him in the same spirit that you have listened to the wife. Do not thrust upon him your own ideas of what he should do, unless you find out that he really wants your suggestions. Even then, give them only as tentative possibilities so he will not feel you are trying to run his life.

Let me repeat what was indicated above. It will be rather unusual if both of them come to you for your suggestions and help. Whether they do so or not will depend largely upon how close you have been to both of them, and the general feeling of rapport between you. Do not feel you have failed if they do not seek your help, therefore, but do all that you can to maintain friendly contacts with each one.

If you find that the family has need for money and you can help, there is no reason why you should not do so, but whatever you give should be supplemental to what your son gives them. It is his responsibility to support the family and he must not be relieved of that.

It would be wise to consult with your pastor about what he thinks can be done in this situation. You realize, of course, that no one can help either your son or his wife unless they want to be helped and willingly seek those whose experience and insights might be of benefit to them.

**Q.** I would appreciate suggestions as to books I might secure concerning sex education for a girl of ten. I would also like to get books which might be helpful for girls of fourteen or fifteen concerning boy-girl relationships and dating problems.


**A.** For a girl of ten, two books, *Being Born*, by Frances Bruce Strain (Appleton-Century-Crofts, \$2.75) and *The Wonder of Life*, by Milton Levine and Jean H. Seligman (Simon & Schuster, \$2.50), can be highly recommended. The booklet *Your Own Story*, by Marion L. Faegre (University of Minnesota, paper, 50 cents), is primarily to be read to younger children; but if your daughter is not acquainted with it, she might find it helpful. It also contains some excellent suggestions for parents, as does Mrs. Strain's book mentioned above. You would also find helpful the Public Affairs Pamphlet *Understand Your Child—From 6 to 12*, by Clara Lambert (No. 144, 25 cents).

For teen-age boys and girls, let me suggest the following: *Facts of Life and Love for Teen-Agers*, by Evelyn Millis Duvall (Revised and Enlarged edition, Association Press, \$3.50), *Love at the Threshold*, by Frances Bruce Strain (Appleton-Century-Crofts, \$3.75), and *Life and Growth*, by Alice V. Keliher (Appleton-Century-Crofts, \$2.00).

Donald M. Maynard



# Small Hands

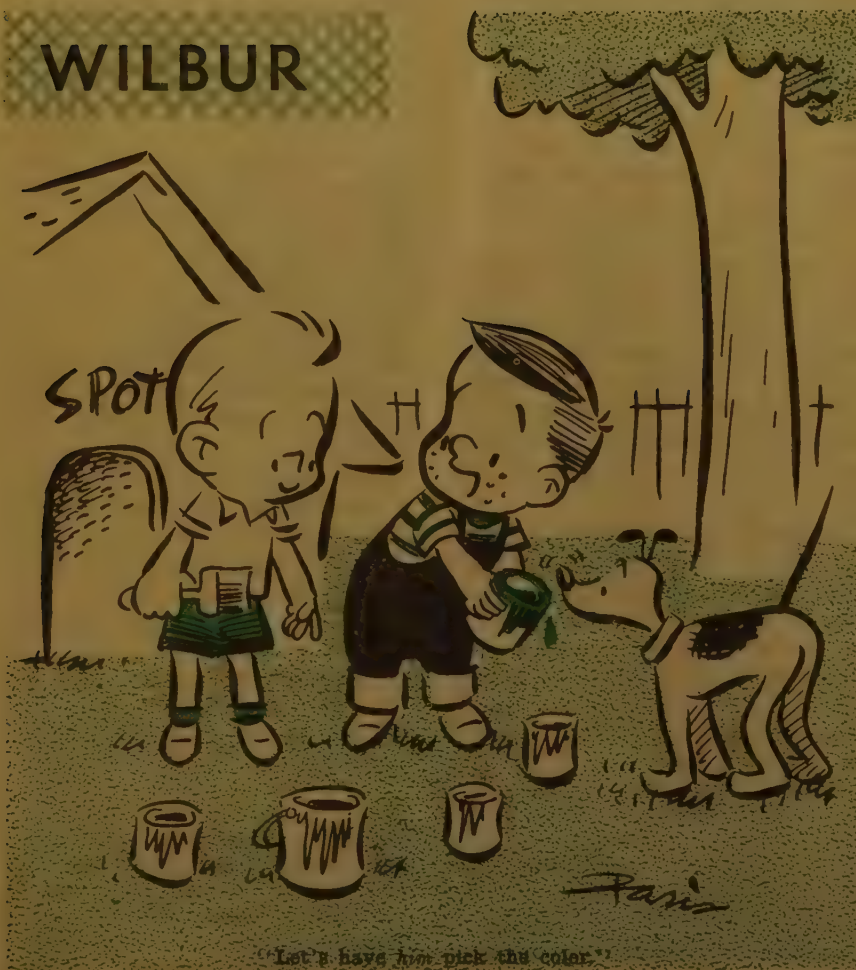


Two little hands can shape a cool mud pie  
And sprinkle it with crumbly golden sand.  
Fat, dimpled hands can catch a butterfly  
Or pluck a dandelion's silken strand.  
A curled up hand can hold a ladybug,  
So gently cup a caterpillar brown.  
Wee hands can touch a sunbeam on the rug,  
Or stretch to feel the warm rain drifting down.

Through all the years I watch the small hands grow  
And teach the wondering little eyes to see  
That God has made the summer breezes blow  
And splashed the color on each emerald tree.  
I thank thee, Lord, for placing in my care  
Two little hands, that nightly fold in prayer.

—Helen Giorgi

## WILBUR



"Let's have him pick the color."

## ● Study Guide

(Continued from page 28)

can always fall back upon the crisis situations described in the article, particularly those which were unwisely handled. The leader must always try to help the group keep in mind how Christ would have each member of the family act.

### III. Discussion Questions

1. How does Christianity help us deal with crisis situations in the home?
2. How can we develop the Christian virtues (examples given in the article, i.e., faith, love, hope, etc.) among the members of our family, which will help them to face the crisis experiences that life offers? How will possessing these virtues aid in successfully handling crises?
3. Discuss how one person may be developed by the same crisis experience which will break another. Give examples from real life, if possible.
4. How much preparation for facing crises can be done among children? Can one overdo such preparation in any way? How?
5. How can we strengthen our family as a unit, so that it will stand together when the crisis experience presents itself?
6. How can parents, by their example, set the stage for facing the crisis situation in a Christian way?

### IV. Available Helps

#### Books

- (All available from Christian Board of Publication.)  
 Finegan, Jack—*Clear of the Brooding Cloud*—\$2.50  
 Gardner, Elizabeth C—*Good Neighbors*—50¢  
 Maynard, Donald M.—*Your Home Can Be Christian*—\$2.00  
 Odell, Mary Clemens—*Our Family Grows Toward God*—50¢  
 Sly, Florence—*Toward a Christian Home*—50¢

#### Filmstrip

- (Can be obtained from Christian Board of Publication.)  
*Built Upon the Rock*—81 frames with record. Rental \$2.50.  
 Suggests how a home built upon the rock of Christian principles can withstand the tensions of modern living.

#### Movie

- (Obtainable from religious film library nearest you.)  
*A Chance to Grow*—30 min. Rental about \$8.00  
 Mother confined to hospital; family learns new unity.

#### Movie

- (Available at many film rental agencies.)  
*Your Family*—10 min. (Coronet Instructional Film) Rental about \$2.00.  
 Family through mutual understanding developed harmonious family life.





# BOOKS

## for the hearthside

### For Children

A mystery story that young readers will enjoy is **The Secret**, by Dorothy Clews (Coward-McCann, Inc., N. Y., 1956, 121 pages, \$2.50). Kay, a little girl who lived in Greenwood House, an apartment building, where there was no outdoor space for play, found a charming spot. This place was a neglected, overgrown garden, where there were lovely trees and bushes, an empty pool, and a summer house that had holes in floor and roof. Having found this place, Kay felt that she owned it. But she shared the secret with Rory, a playmate who also lived in Greenwood House. Gerald, a rich but unpopular boy at school, gave Rory a rabbit but Rory never would tell Gerald where he kept the rabbit. Kay and Rory fixed up the little house, cleaned out and filled the pool, dug the flower beds and planted seeds. They even planted lettuce seeds for the rabbit. How the secret became known makes an exciting story, and the three children became friends in the end.

\* \* \*

An amusing book for young children is **Third Monkey**, by Ann Nolan Clark (The Viking Press, 1956, 44 pages, \$2.50). It is written in blank verse. The reader is introduced to the jungle where Mother Monkey has her nest. But something is wrong! The reader is told that almost always there is one baby monkey in the nest; sometimes there are two; but this time there were three! **Third Monkey** was little and ugly and made to feel different from all the other monkeys. He felt sad because he didn't look like the other monkeys in the jungle. So he decided to be different, and he ran away. He tried to be like various animals and birds that lived in the jungle, but all told him he was "just like a monkey." Finally, he learns a great truth—that monkey tricks are a monkey's business. The way he is reunited with his family, and the honor that came to him makes this an exciting story for young children. The illustrations by Don Freeman add reality and charm to the text.

### For Youth

**My Heart's in the Hills**, by Harry Harrison Kroll. The Westminster Press, 1956. 186 pages. Price, \$2.75.

Those who have read *Summer Gold*, by Harry Harrison Kroll, will want to read this sequel. Barbara Estwicke, a senior at the University of Tennessee, has a camp for girls in the hills of North Carolina. It is a success during the first summer of operation, and Barbara has plans for expansion.

Bill McFee, a mining engineer, who is Barbara's fiancé, wants her to marry him right away; but Barbara is in no hurry for marriage. She has tasted the tantalizing flavor of success, and she wants to be strictly a business woman for a spell.

Then Barbara discovers that a charming little lass named Sheila Lacey has set her cap for Bill. To her dismay Barbara finds that Sheila and Bill have been corresponding.

Another young man, Bob Giles, whom Barbara has hired to cull out timber on her place, proposes marriage. Finally, Barbara is forced to make a decision.

The trials, tribulations, and adventures of this ambitious girl are woven into a very good book for teen-age girls.

### For Adults

Another book on the Christian family and its experiences is **An Adventure in Love**, by W. Taliaferro Thompson (John Knox Press, Richmond, 1956. 155 pages. \$2.50). This is a discussion of marriage as a great adventure, an adventure in love. It is not merely a theoretical discussion; it is a book of good counsel, of sage and practical guidance that will help parents of children of all ages understand their task better. It is not, however, limited in its interest to parents, for all of us live in homes of one type or another,

bachelor and career girl included. A reading of this book will reveal the workings of love in all the relationships of the family.

The author has taught in Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., since 1920, with religious education and the Christian family as his chief interest. He is the father of six children who have now made him a grandfather.

\* \* \*

What ministers are preaching about marriage and the home is revealed in part through **Sermons on Marriage and Family Life**, edited by John C. Wynn (Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1956. 173 pages. \$2.75). Nearly 400 sermons were submitted for consideration for this book. Out of that number sixteen were selected for publication from as many ministers of different church bodies. The table of contents reveals the significance of these sermons for every family: "Split-Level Homes," by Robert E. Luccock; "The Changing Family," by Hazen G. Werner; "Religion and the Home," by George A. Buttrick; "Will Your Marriage Be Christian?" by James H. Phillips; "Preface to Holy Matrimony," by Robert Y. Johnson; "Married Love," by John A. Redhead, Jr.; "The Unmarried Have a Vocation," by W. Norman Pittenger; "Fifth Commandment Christians," by Hoover Rupert; "Portrait of a Mother," by Harold L. Lunger; "The Forgiving Father," by William H. Genne; "A Christian Understanding of Sex," by Harry A. Krueger; "You Shall Not Commit Adultery," by Robert W. Burns; "When the Bottom Drops Out," by Jack E. Sanders; "How to Face Family Tragedy," by Margaret Blair Johnstone; "Problems of Mixed Marriages," by James A. Pike; "Absalom, Absalom," by Robert G. Middleton.

This is a book for both preachers and laymen.

\* \* \*

Looking for a little book of devotional meditations and verse? Here it is—**The Prayers of Jesus**, by Ralph Spaulding Cushman (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1955. 125 pages. \$1.75). The prayers of our Lord are the basis for these meditations and poems. They are useful for personal or group devotions.



# Over the back fence

## ● Faith for Uncertain Times

This is written on Nov. 1, 1956, just five days before the election. There are some uncertainties in this field, not so much as to the man who will be elected President, but as to whether his party will regain control of Congress.

More uncertainty can be found in the field of international conditions. As of now, Egypt and Israel are at war, Britain and France are supporting Israel with arms, and President Eisenhower has just said that the United States would work through the United Nations to try to reweave the shattered robe of peace.

Russia is having difficulty with her satellites: Poland, Hungary, and East Germany are determinedly seeking more freedom from Soviet control.

In the midst of these and many other uncertainties, the home must look for some "unshakables." Few such are to be found outside the field of faith, and those certainties are available only for those who are rugged enough to "believe where they cannot see."

Now more than ever Christian homes need the power that comes only through the Christian faith. In the days leading up to our celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ every family will want to strengthen its faith by faithful attendance at worship, in daily study of the Bible, and in a continuing practice of prayer and meditation.

## Will It Pay to Get Tough?

Dr. Ruth Alexander raised the question, "Are We Too Soft on Young Criminals?" in the October, 1956, *Reader's Digest*. She answered it with a definite "yes,"

and urged that it was time to "get tough," using severe punishment "to instill fear of the consequences of criminal acts, in order to protect the law-abiding."

She probably reflects the thinking of many people and apparently has some experiences and authorities on her side.

The September issue of *Federal Probation*, journal of the Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C., carried an article presenting the opposite viewpoint with the title, "The Woodshed Is No Answer." Justine Wise Polier, justice of New York City's Domestic Relations Court, contends that the "get tough" way is not the best way to handle juvenile delinquency. It has been tried too many centuries and has been found wanting. Space now is available only for this much of that evidence, but it is illuminating.

"In Britain, where the harshest punishment for juvenile offenders . . . was used as a deterrent, a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the efficacy of official birching, a long-accepted procedure. While the investigators felt no distaste for such corporal punishment, their conclusion was that it did more harm than good. Young offenders who had been 'birched' were compared with those placed on probation. Far more of the former repeated their offenses. Four hundred and forty out of 574 children on whom it was practiced were back in court within two years. The Royal Commission also discovered that once the court fixed its attention on punishment, all other methods of rehabilitation were ignored or slighted. It was also noted that the courts that continued to resort to birching were those least given to using probation or other methods of individual treatment and supervision."

Do not yield to the blandishments of the "get tough" advocates without a careful study of the whole problem. *Hearthstone* will carry a further study of this matter in future issues.

maedonell



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# Poetry Page

## Living Room?

A perfect example  
Of beautiful taste—  
No dust, and no ashes—  
And nothing misplaced.

No newspapers open—  
Not even a book.  
The room has that spick-and-span,  
Orderly look.

Ideal? Well—perhaps; but  
Can you for a minute  
See any possible  
“Living” room in it?

— Ida M. Pardue

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## Dreams

How soon the places dear to us as children  
Become an ugliness of timber beams  
And rusting cans, of rags and blatant signs;  
How soon adults forget their younger dreams.  
The vacant lot lies cluttered now and waste  
Where dangerously we hid in summer grass  
And breathed no breath, awaiting fierce Apaches;  
Not red men lurk today, but bricks and glass.  
And there, upon the ridge along the road,  
Where once we galloped on a mighty cliff  
To take a princess from an eagle's claws,  
No memento stands, but signboards new and stiff.  
What legacy remains to children now  
If they can dream, but under no green bough?

— Charles B. Tinkham

## Old Orchard

Gnarled by the years, the old trees dream,  
Patriarchs serene, musing in the sun  
On vanished springtimes, summers, autumns gone,  
All travail over and all labor done.

Yet here and there belated blossoms glow  
In knotted hands, symbols of loveliness  
That know not time, that speak to passersby  
In syllables of peace that heal and bless!

— Arthur Wallace Peach

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## The Meter Is No Place to Meet

It's well for minds to meet and try  
To focus viewpoints, eye to eye,  
But not  
Upon a single parking spot.

— Florence Pedigo Jansson

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## Thumb's Up

My baby's plate abounds with products  
guaranteed to nourish,  
To stimulate his little glands  
and cause his cells to flourish.  
But though I am adept at  
psychological persuasions,  
And use them with dexterity  
on culinary occasions;

He refuses to succumb.  
He prefers his juicy thumb!

— Helen Giorgi

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# Here

are new books  
for all occasions

**THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR NEW STUDENTS** by C. F. Cheverton. *Revised by George Fowler and Ambrose Edens.* A study complete with pictures, maps and charts giving a clear and unified picture of the Old Testament to those who know little or nothing about it. 100115 . . . \$3.00

**COME WORSHIP** by Guin Ream. A collection of 46 short worship services for young people. This book was written with their needs in mind and was based on their suggestions. An excellent guide book for anyone who works with young people. 10C564 . . . \$2.00

**FINDING HOLY GROUND** by Harold Lunger. These religious essays are filled with messages of faith, hope and courage which are particularly suited to present-day living. Here are dynamic interpretations gathered to form a philosophy for everyday Christian living. 10F352 . . . \$3.00

**STRANGER IN MY HOUSE** by Walter Sikes. A cooperatively published study course for older youth which achieves the realization that, despite the materialism and naturalism of our day, no man can handle his life apart from God or the guidance of the gospel. \$ .75

**THE BIG DIFFERENCE** by Barton Hunter. A cooperatively published study course that explores the implications of Christian commitment. In these days in which Christian decision-making is often difficult, this book gives inspiration and courage to all Christians. \$ .75

**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BY FAMILIES** by Richard Lentz. A new cooperatively published booklet dealing with worship as a family experience. Intended as a home reading course, it gives many helpful suggestions for starting or improving family worship. 10C507 . . . \$ .75

**WHO AM I** by Louise Griffiths. A hard-bound edition of a popular reading book for teen-agers. Attractively illustrated in two colors, it makes a gift any young teen-ager would be thrilled to receive. 10W366 . . . \$1.50

**TEACHING YOUTH IN THE CHURCH (Revised)** by Glenn McRae. (*Unit 311A*) A leadership training text by one of the foremost authorities in this field. It shows how more effective church school teaching can come from discussing lessons and using proper methods. 10T140 . . . \$ .75

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or order from . . .

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